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August 26, 2011

Ms. Jo Ann Burroughs  
Manager, Network Services  
CSX Transportation, Inc.  
500 Water Street #J 200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Re: CSX Transportation, Inc. Notice of Proposed Abandonment  
STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub. No. 717X)  
Review of Preliminary Environmental Report

Dear Ms. Burroughs:

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated August 2, 2011 requesting comments from Miami-Dade County on a Preliminary Environmental Report describing CSX Transportation, Inc.'s (CSXT) proposal to abandon a portion of its rail line in Miami-Dade County from railroad milepost SX 1036.8 to milepost SX 1037.5, approximately 1,300 feet of connection track beginning 150 feet from the point of switch near milepost SXH 37.0, for a total distance of approximately 0.95 miles in the vicinity of the future Miami Intermodal Center (MIC).

The Department of Planning and Zoning (DP&Z) reviewed the proposed action and alternatives, transportation system, and land use component of the report and offers the following comments:

1. Based upon relevant Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) and Land Use Plan map provisions, adopted transportation plans (i.e. 2012 Transportation Improvement Program and 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan), and the information provided for this proposal, we find that the proposed abandonment of the subject rail line segments for freight use is consistent with the Adopted 2015 and 2025 Land Use Plan map and the Goals, Objectives and Policies of the CDMP; and would not conflict with nor hinder the development of the transportation projects and services programmed and planned in the 2012 TIP and 2035 LRTP within and in the vicinity of the subject CSXT rail line segment area.
2. The rail line to be abandoned is currently used by Tri-Rail, South Florida's passenger commuter rail system serving Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Palm Beach. The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority operates the Tri-Rail regional commuter rail system, and is in the process of double tracking the southernmost section of the corridor in the vicinity of the Miami Central Station at the MIC. The additional mainline track will address an existing capacity deficiency along this segment and into the MIC.

DP&Z also forwarded the Preliminary Environmental Report to Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) for their review and comment. For your convenience we summarized DERM's comments below:

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1. Water and sewer lines are within the vicinity of the project—CSXT should take extra care to protect the County's water distribution and sewage collection systems.
2. Permits may be required from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for stormwater and from DERM for dewatering.
3. The "Scope of Work" report provided to DERM was incomplete, thus DERM staff could not perform an adequate analysis. A complete "Scope of Work" will be forwarded to DERM for a more comprehensive review.
4. Railroad lines historically have environmental issues, thus a Phase I and Phase II reports addressing soil and groundwater impacts need to be produced by CSXT and sent to DERM's Pollution Control Division.
5. There may be properties within the vicinity of the project area with current records of contamination assessment/remediation issues.

I am herewith enclosing DERM's full comments for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding our comments or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (305) 375-2840, or at [MCLF@miamidade.gov](mailto:MCLF@miamidade.gov). For questions regarding DERM's comments, please contact Mr. Jose Gonzalez, DERM Assistant Director, at (305) 372-6754, or at [GonzaJ@miamidade.gov](mailto:GonzaJ@miamidade.gov).

Sincerely,



Marc C. LaFerrier, AICP  
Director

c: Jose Gonzalez, Assistant Director, DERM  
Christine Velazquez, Chief, Office of Code Coordination, DERM  
Mark Woerner, Chief, Metropolitan Planning Section, DP&Z

Enclosure

MCLF:MRW:NVS:nms